entation in the management of public sector enterprises; permission to PSUs to form joint ventures abroad and to raise fresh equity from the market and bringing the sick PSUs under the purview of the Sick Industrial Companies Act (SICA). The prevailing work culture in the public sector needs to be overhauled so as to ensure managerial autonomy and accountabilities and greater participation of workers in the development processes of the public sector.

UNSECURED ADVANCES/LOANS BY COMMERCIAL BANKS

2611. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to Reserve Bank of India instructions unsecured advances/loans by the commercial banks are liable to be charged with a warranty (guarantee) fee to cover the cost of premium paid by the banks whereas in the case of secured loans (agricultural loans) no warranty fee is allowed to be charged;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that despite the exemption of warranty fee all the commercial banks have charged crores of rupees from the farmers throughout the country in the past and still continuing with the illegal and unjust practice;

(c) whether Government propose to curb this malpractices and take steps for refund of wrongly charged amount; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) instructions on charging of guarantee fees are as follows :—

(1) The premium payable to DICGC on advances granted to the "Weaker Sections" in the priority sector should be borne by the banks and should not be recovered from the borrowers. The weaker sections comprises of :

(i) Small and marginal farmers with land holdings of 5 acres or less, landless labourers, tenant framers & share-croppers.

(ii) Artisans, Village and Cottage industries where individual credit requirements do not exceed Rs. 25,000/-.

(iii) IRDP beneficiaries.

(iv) Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

(v) Beneficiaries under DRI Scheme.

(2) In the case of advances where the banks charge interest of 15 percent (excluding interest tax) or more the banks will have to absorb the guarantee fees.

(2) In all other cases the banks should ensure that the lending rate as stipulated together with the guarantee fee, irrespective of whether it is levied separately or not, does no exceed 15 percent.

(c) and (d) Any non-compliance with the above instructions brought to the notice of the RBI/Government is taken up with the concerned banks.

DACOITIES IN NATIONALISED BANKS

2612. DR. SANJAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of dacoition that took place in Nationalised Banks during the last two years alongwith the details of losses suffered by each bank durng that period;

(b) whether it is a fact that the guards posted in the Nationalised Banks are provided with outdated weapons and as a result thereof the dacoits commit robbery with any amount of resistance from the guards;